

CLAIMS

1. A pneumatic tire comprising
a tread portion provided with at least one wide
circumferential groove,
the wide circumferential groove extending continuously in
the tire circumferential direction and having a groove width GW
of not less than 5% of the ground contacting width TW,
the wide circumferential groove provided in the groove
bottom with a groove bottom rib,
the groove bottom rib extending continuously along the
overall length of the wide circumferential groove,
the groove bottom rib having a height Hr in a range of
from 0.5 to 3.0 mm and a base width wr in a range of from 10 to
30 % of the groove width GW, and
the groove bottom rib provided in the top face with a
small groove having a depth Dr of less than the height Hr.
2. A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein
the depth Dr of the small groove is in a range of from 30
to 60 % of the rib height Hr.
3. A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein
the groove bottom of the wide circumferential groove is
provided on each side of the groove bottom rib with knurled parts
made up of small ribs extending crosswise to the longitudinal
direction of the wide circumferential groove.
4. A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein
the wide circumferential groove is provided on at least

one of the edges with a down slope towards the groove bottom.

5. A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein
said at last one wide circumferential groove is
only one wide circumferential groove
disposed within a half tread portion on one side of the tire
equator.

11004456 940924